Model Container Handling—facility at Madras Port

900. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals are afoot to develop the Madras Port into a model container handling facility; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present the Madras Port has a 600 metre long container terminal with a rated handling capacity of 2.10 lakhs TEUs per annum. To cater to the continuing increase in container traffic, there is a proposal to extend the existing terminal by a further 290 metres towards north. On completion of this extension, the Madras Port Trust container terminal will have a rated capacity of 4.72 lakhs TEUs per annum.

Vishakhapatnam Port Trust

901. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a plan to develop Vishakhapatnam Port Trust;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount to be spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Various plan schemes have been envisaged to develop and modernise the infrastructural facilities of Vishakhapatnam port during the Ninth Plan (1997—2002) with a proposed total outlay of Rs. 850 crores for the Ninth Plan and an Annual Plan outlay of Rs. 70.50 crores for 1997-98.

Shipping Corporation Swindled by Egyptian Contractor

902. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Shipping Corporation of India has been swindled by an Egyptian Contractor for nearly Rs. 2.40 crores for removal of rubbish at Port Suez through fake bills;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether involvement of S.C.I, official has been detected in this case and if so, who are the officials involved; and

(d) what action Government have taken to recover the amount and also against the officials found involved in this case?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKAT-RAMAN): (a) and (b) Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) has reported that it has suffered a loss of about Rs. 2.40 crores for payments made by their Port Said agents to an Egyptian contractor for removal of rubbish from SCI's vessel transiting through Suez Canal. The contractor had been submitting forged 'Work Done' Certificates.

(c) and (d) The matter is being investigated by SCI/Ministry of Surface Transport and no conclusion has yet been reached.

Meanwhile, SCI is contemplating to take legal action against their agents in Egypt, for recovering this money.

Container capacity at .lawaharlal Port Trust, Mumbai

903. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to increase the container capacity of ports with construction of two berth container terminals on BOT basis at Jawaharlal Port Trust, Mumbai through private investment;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal formulated/finalised with features thereof; and

(c) what is the present status of the proposal and the details of private sector offers of investment received for participation in the project and decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKAT-RAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal envisages construction of two new Container Berths capable of handling six million tonnes per annum of container traffic at an estimated cost of Rs. 700 crores.

(c) Five parties viz Samsung Corporation, ABG Heavy Industries, Marubeni Corporation, Larsen & Toubro and P & O Australia had submitted their offers for this project. Out of these, M/s P&O Australia were selected for award of contract. The agreement has already been signed. The work of construction and reclamation has since started

Road Traffic on National Highways

904. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that (i) though the National Highways consist of only 1.7 per cent of the total road network in the country, it cairies 40 per cent of all the road traffic and (ii) the share for Surface Transport in the 8th Plan has declined to 0.6 per cent of public expenditure from 1.4 per cent in the 1st Plan; and

(b) what are the reasons that Government are not giving adequate priority to development of road network considering that it is an essential element for sustained growth?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government is giving adequate priority to development of National Highways. However, the funds available through the budget are not adequate.

एक्सप्रेस राजमार्ग (हाईवे) तथा सुपर राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग (नेशनल हाईवे)

905. **श्री अजीत जोगी** : क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) क्या सरकार का विचार देश में एक्सप्रेस राजमार्ग (हाईवे)/सुपर राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग (नेशनल हाईवे) बनाने का है,

(ख) यदि हां, तो ऐसे राजमार्गों का राज्यवार ब्यौरा क्या है,

(ग) इस उद्देश्य के लिए निर्दिष्ट की गई धनराशि, यदि कोई हो तो क्या है, और

(घ) यदि नहीं , तो इसके कारण क्या है ?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री (श्री टी.जी. वेंकटरामन) : (क) से (घ) सरकार की प्राथमिकता अत्यधिक भीड़ वाले मौजुदा-2 लेन वाले मार्गों को चार-लेन का बनाने की है । संसाधनो की कमीं के कारण एक्सप्रेस मार्गों के विकास को कम प्राथमिकता दी जाती है ।

गुजरात में मुख्य पत्तनों की क्षमता

906. **श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ला :** क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गुजरात में प्रत्येक मुख्य पत्तन की क्षमता का ब्यौरा क्या है,

(ख) वर्तमान में उनकी क्षमता के कुल कितने प्रतिशत का उपयोग किया जा रहा है,

(ग) क्या सरकार इन पत्तनों में मूलभूत सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराने के साथ-साथ उनकी क्षमता बढ़ाने का विचार रखती है, और

(घ) क्या नयी पत्तन नीति की घोषणा के पश्चात विदेशी निवेशकों को कोई प्रोत्साहन दिए जा रहें हैं,यदि हां, तो तत्संबधी ब्यौरा क्या है ?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री (श्री टी.वी. वेंकटरामन) : (क) 31.10.1997 की स्थिति के अनुसार , पत्तनों से संबधिंत कार्यदल द्वारा किए जाते गए आकलन के अनुसार कांडला पत्तन की क्षमता 24.99 मिलियन टन है ।

(ख) वर्तमान क्षमता पूरी तरह उपयोग में लाई जा रही है ।

(ग) जी हां ।

(घ) नई पत्तन नीति के तहत विदेशी निवेशकों को निम्नलिखित प्रोत्साहन दिए जा रहें जा रहें हैं :-

किसी भारतीय कंपनी में 74% तक विदेशी इक्विटी के लिए स्वत: अनुमोदन । विदेशी निवेश प्रोत्साहन बोर्ड, उद्योग मंत्रालय गुण-दोषों के आधार पर 100% इक्विटी की अनुमति प्रदान करता है । ऐसे विदशी निवेशकों को, जो विदेशी निवेश प्रोत्साहन बोर्ड/सक्षम प्राधिकारी से अनुमति ले चुके हैं, और भारतीय कंपनी अधिनियम के तहत कंपनी के रूप में पंजीकृत है/ पंजीकरण करवाना चाहते हैं, पत्तनों में पायलटेज को छोड़कर, अन्य